

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 52, line 22, with the following paragraph:

Here, the conventional technique disclosed in the ~~patent document 4~~ Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 91769/1998 and so forth has an object that, by finally connecting a plurality of fingerprint partial images to each other, the entire fingerprint image similar to that acquired by a plane type fingerprint sensor (which is a common fingerprint sensor different from that of the sweep type) is reconfigured. Therefore, high detection accuracy is required in order that a relative positional relationship of a plurality of fingerprint partial images may be detected. Accordingly, for example, expansion and contraction appears on a picked-up image due to a relative speed which occurs between a scanning line of the sweep type fingerprint sensor 11 and a finger during moving. Therefore, the expansion and contraction must be corrected, or correlation calculation for detecting a superposition position must be performed minutely in a unit of 1 pixel.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 54, line 16, with the following paragraph:

In particular, not organism characteristic data (fingerprint data including minutia information) necessary for personal identification and so forth is extracted by producing the entire fingerprint image and thereafter performing image processes for it but each of fingerprint partial images is considered as an object of the image processes and characteristic portion data is acquired at any time from the fingerprint partial image. Therefore, the memory capacity necessary for image processes can be drastically reduced in comparison with that of the conventional technique disclosed in the ~~patent document 4~~ Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 91769/1998 and so forth mentioned hereinabove.